

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T SEOUL 5384

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV KS US
SUBJ: KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR

REF: A. SEOUL 5280, B. SEOUL 5336

1. POLCOUNS CALLED ON AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR YU CHONG-HA AFTERNOON JUNE 22 TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR. POLCOUNS NOTED THAT BALL WAS NOW IN ROK COURT AND ASKED IF CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON JUNE 20 (REF A) THAT AMBASSADOR KIM PROVIDE ASSURANCES TO MR. JAWORSKI. YU STATED THAT ROK DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THE TYPE OF ASSURANCE JAWORSKI APPARENTLY WISHES. POLCOUNS NOTED THAT IN PARK TONG-SUN AFFAIR ASSURANCE HAD BEEN GIVEN THAT FULL AND FRANK ANSWERS WOULD BE PROVIDED. YU SAID THAT AMBASSADOR KIM HAD ALREADY ASSURED JAWORSKI THAT ROK WOULD MAKE EFFORT TO HAVE FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM RESPOND TO QUESTIONS PUT BY JAWORSKI TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE. THIS, HOWEVER, DID NOT SATISFY JAWORSKI. HE STATED THAT HE HAD INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE OF PAYMENTS AND WISHED ASSURANCE THAT LETTER WOULD CONTAIN SUBSTANTIAL RESPONSE TO THIS EVIDENCE. YU STATED THAT KIM DONG-JO WOULD BE WRITING "PRIVATE AND PERSONAL LETTER" AND ROK COULD NOT GIVE ANY KIND OF ASSURANCE. IN ADDITION, ROK WAS UNWILLING TO PREJUDGE CASE AS JAWORSKI APPARENTLY WISHED BY PROVIDING ASSURANCE THAT LETTER

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FROM KIM DONG-JO WOULD PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF WRONG-DOING. THEREFORE ROKG DID NOT AT THIS POINT SEE ANYTHING FURTHER TO BE DONE.

2. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT IMPORTANCE TO OUR RELATIONSHIP OF CONTINUED COOPERATIVE POSTURE ON THE PART OF THE ROK. HE NOTED THAT TO MAKE NO RESPONSE TO JAWORSKI COULD POSSIBLY BE MISINTERPRETED. HE URGED

THAT ROK RESPOND TO JAWORSKI WITH THE MAXIMUM ASSURANCES IT FELT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE. SHOULD THESE PROVE UNACCEPTABLE, ROKG WOULD AT MINIMUM HAVE MADE ONE LAST ATTEMPT AT COOPERATION. YU TOOK NOTE OF POLCOUNS' URGING BUT RESPONDED THAT ROK BELIEVED IT HAD ALREADY THROUGH AMBASSADOR KIM GIVEN ALL THE ASSURANCE POSSIBLE IN THIS MATTER.

3. AS A SECOND POINT YU NOTED THAT JAWORSKI WAS ASKING TO HAVE AMBASSADOR KIM'S SIGNATURE ATTESTED TO. HE SAID THE ROK FOUND THIS TO BE INSULTING. GOVERNMENTS DID NOT NORMALLY QUESTION EACH OTHER IN THIS MANNER. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT THAT ATTESTATION WAS A SIMPLE AND INCONSEQUENTIAL FORMALITY AND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BLOCK AN OTHERWISE ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. YU DID NOT APPEAR RECEPTIVE TO THIS LINE OF ARGUMENTATION.

4. YU STATED HE HAD ALSO JUST RECEIVED REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON WHICH INDICATED THAT AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGRICULTURAL AUTHORIZATION WAS BEING PREPARED IN THE HOUSE WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE SPEAKER WHICH WOULD EITHER CUT OFF OR REDUCE PL-480 ASSISTANCE TO KOREA. YU STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT POSITION WAS THAT IF THE DECISION WERE MERELY TO CURTAIL PL-480 THE ROKG WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY RPT ANY PL-480 FUNDING. POLCOUNS URGED YU TO MOVE SLOWLY ON THIS MATTER AND NOT TO MAKE DECISIONS BEFORE EVENTS IN WASHINGTON HAD TAKEN THEIR COURSE. IN RESPONSE YU STATED THAT AT THIS JUNCTURE THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED
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TO SIT AND LET EVENTS TAKE THEIR COURSE. POLCOUNS URGED FURTHER EFFORT TO MAKE SOME ACCOMMODATION WITH JAWORSKI.

5. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON ASSESSMENT OF ROKG ASSURANCE BEING REQUESTED BY JAWORSKI. IF IN FACT HE IS ASKING FOR ASSURANCE THAT RESPONSE FROM KIM DONG-JO WILL CONTAIN INCRIMINATING MATERIAL, WE DOUBT THAT OUR EFFORTS TO CONVINCE THE ROK TO KEEP THE DIALOGUE ALIVE HAVE MUCH POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS. DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO POINT OUT TO HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE STAFF THAT THIS TYPE OF ASSURANCE WAS NOT REQUESTED OR RECEIVED IN THE PARK TONG-SUN CASE AND YET RESULTS, EVEN BY JAWORSKI'S ESTIMATE, WERE VERY USEFUL. HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE MIGHT WISH TO BORROW LEAF FROM JUSTICE BOOK AND MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT PRIOR GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS.
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